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CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

28 June 2022

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Azusa – Authorities Seize More Than Two and a Half Tons of Fireworks; 27 Homes Evacuated

(U) Twenty-seven homes in a Los Angeles suburb were evacuated as authorities seized more than two and a half tons of illegal fireworks at a residence. Police in Azusa began evacuating homes as a precaution after a tip led authorities to a storage facility and then to a local home. More than 3,500 pounds of fireworks were seized at the home and in a van parked at the residence, and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department bomb squad was called in to move the devices to a safe location. One person was detained and handcuffed, but additional details weren't immediately released. SOURCE: 27 June 2022, The San Diego Union-Tribune

(U) Bakersfield - College Evacuated Due to Possible Bomb Threat

(U) Bakersfield College's campus was evacuated due to a possible threat, according to a Twitter post and news release from the college. Officials determined after a search, that the bomb threat was found unsubstantiated by the Bakersfield Police Department and the college's safety personnel. SOURCE: 27 June 2022, Bakersfield Now

(U) Sacramento – California Advances Lawsuits Over Illegal Firearms

(U) California legislators approved a bill that would allow anyone to sue people who sell illegal firearms. The California bill would allow people to sue anyone who distributes illegal assault weapons, parts that can be used to build weapons, guns without serial numbers, or .50 caliber rifles. They would be awarded at least \$10,000 in civil damages for each weapon, plus attorney's fees.

SOURCE: 28 June 2022, The Mercury News

(U) San Diego - California Resident Sentenced to 30 Days in Prison for Capitol Breach

(U) A San Diego County man was sentenced to 30 days in prison for his role in the US Capitol insurrection on 6 January 2021. Philip Weisbecker, 51, pleaded guilty in March to one misdemeanor count of parading or demonstrating in the Capitol. He is among a handful of people with San Diego ties who have been charged or linked to the Capitol breach.

SOURCE: 27 June 2022, Los Angeles Times

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) Texas – Death Toll from Migrants Found in Truck Reaches 50

(U) San Antonio— The death toll from a human trafficking incident in which migrants suffered under extreme Texas heat inside a truck rose to 50 today. The migrants died inside a tractor-trailer in San Antonio, Texas, where temperatures swelled to a high of 103 degrees Fahrenheit. It was one of the deadliest recent incidents of human smuggling along the US-Mexico border. Some 22 Mexicans, seven Guatemalans and two Hondurans were identified among the dead; there was no information on the nationality of the other 19. Homeland Security Investigations division was conducting a criminal investigation into "an alleged human smuggling event" in coordination with local police.

SOURCE: 28 June 2022, Reuters

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(U) NATIONAL

(U) New York – US Army Private Admits Plotting Attack on His Military Unit

(U) Manhattan — A US Army private from Kentucky pleaded guilty to charges of plotting to murder members of his unit in an attack that he planned to carry out in 2020 on behalf of a group that promotes extreme violence to bring about the demise of Western civilization. Ethan Phelan Melzer, 24, of Louisville, Kentucky, entered the plea in Manhattan federal court. Sentencing was set for 6 January, when he could face up to 45 years in prison after pleading guilty to trying to murder US military service members, seeking to support terrorists and illegally transmitting national defense information. Federal authorities say Melzer was already a member of a radical violent group known as the Order of Nine Angles, or 09A, before joining the Army in December 2018. As an 09A member, Melzer was expected to fulfill "sinister deeds" such as infiltrating organizations, including the military, to gain training and experience, commit acts of violence and identify like-minded individuals.

SOURCE: 27 June 2022, WLKY

(U) Oklahoma – Oklahoma Reaches \$250 Million Opioid Settlement with Drug Distributors

(U) Oklahoma City — Oklahoma has reached a \$250 million settlement with AmerisourceBergen Corp (ABC.N), Cardinal Health Inc (CAH.N) and McKesson Corp (MCK.N) to resolve allegations the drug distributors contributed to the opioid epidemic in the state. Drug distributors say they are being forced to "walk a legal and ethical tightrope" without clearer regulatory guidance on how to protect consumers from legal but potentially dangerous drugs. Oklahoma will use at least 85% of the funds to help abate the opioid addiction crisis in the state. The distributors have denied wrongdoing in the epidemic, which has caused more than 500,000 US overdose deaths during the past two decades, according to government data.

SOURCE: 27 June 2022, Reuters

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Iran – Cyberattack Forces Steel Company to Halt Production

(U) Ahvaz – One of Iran's major steel companies reported it was forced to halt production after being hit by a cyberattack that also targeted two other plants. The Iranian government did not acknowledge the disruption or blame any specific group for the assault on the state-owned Khuzestan Steel Co. and Iran's two other major steel producers. An anonymous hacking group claimed responsibility for the attack on social media, saying it targeted Iran's three biggest steel companies in response to the "aggression of the Islamic Republic." The group, calling itself "Gonjeshke Darande," shared what purported to be closed-circuit footage from the Khuzestan Steel Co. factory floor that showed a piece of heavy machinery on a steel billet production line malfunction and cause a massive fire.

SOURCE: 27 June 2022, ABC News

(U) Lithuania – Pro-Russian Hackers Claim Responsibility for Cyberattacks against Websites

(U) Vilnius – An "intense, ongoing" cyberattack has hit the websites of government agencies and private firms in Lithuania, the Baltic country's defense ministry reported. A Russian-speaking hacking group, known as Killnet, claimed responsibility for at least some of the hacks, saying they were in retaliation for Lithuania blocking the shipment of some goods to the Russian enclave of Kaliningrad. The cyberattacks were aimed in part at Lithuania's Secure Data Transfer Network, a communications network for government officials that is built to withstand war and other crises, according to the defense ministry. SOURCE: 27 June 2022, CNN

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(U) Pakistan – Pakistani Court Sentences Militant Linked to Mumbai Attacks

(U) Islamabad – Pakistan sentenced one of the militants linked to the 2008 terrorist attacks in Mumbai, India to 15 years in prison for terror financing unrelated to the assaults. Sajid Majeed Mir, 43, was arrested in 2020 and sentenced in May, according to court documents, but his detention and sentencing were never disclosed by Pakistan. He was sought by the FBI in connection with the 2008 attacks on India's financial hub that killed 166 people, including six Americans.

SOURCE: 27 June 2022, ABC News

(U) Syria – US Forces Kill Senior Terrorist Leader

(U) Idlib – US forces killed a senior terrorist leader in an airstrike in Syria on Monday, according to military officials. US Central Command (CENTCOM) said the target of the strike, Abu Hamzah al Yemeni, was a senior leader of an al-Qa'ida-affiliated terrorist group known as Hurras al-Din. The leader was riding alone on a motorcycle in Idlib province at the time of the attack.

SOURCE: 27 June 2022, ABC News

- (U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.
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